

US \$ 4353.8 million as against the exports of US\$ 5263.5 million during the same period of 2000, recording a negative growth of 17.3%.

(c) In view of the current international trade environment, the textile exports during 2001-2002 are targeted to reach a level of US\$ 12,100 million.

Plight of cotton growers

1195. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plight of cotton growers in various parts of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, as a result of increased domestic production and at the same time massive imports of cotton;

(b) whether affected States have brought the plight of farmers to the notice of the Government and as a result of which Government would restrict imports of cotton with immediate effect;

(c) if not, the quantum of loss that cotton growers and procurement agencies would suffer; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Production, consumption and import of cotton during the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 cotton seasons are as under:—

(in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

	1999-2000	2000-2001
Production	156.00	140.00
Import	22.01	16.00
Consumption	173.36	165.00

(b) Expecting a good crop, requests were received from State Governments to increase duty on import of cotton. The

Government is closely monitoring the situation to take appropriate action, if any needed.

(c) To protect the interests of the cotton growers, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of *kapas* (seed cotton). Whenever the market prices of *kapas* touch the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.(CCI) undertakes Support Price Operation and purchases *kapas* at MSP, without any quantitative limit, in all cotton growing States (except in Maharashtra where the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of State Government is in operation). The loss, if any, incurred on account of support price operation is reimbursed to the CCI by the Government. Therefore, the question of loss to the cotton growers or the procurement agency does not arise.

(d) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton as well as lowering the cost of cultivation.

EMAS for export of diversified jute products

1196. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided to restructure the External Market Assistance Scheme for export of diversified jute products;

(b) whether a study on the operation of the EMAS was undertaken;

(c) if so, the outcome of the study and by when the new policy will be formulated; and

(d) the measures taken to assist jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was decided by the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) to restructure the External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme for export of diversified jute products. For this purpose, a study was undertaken by the JMDC to evaluate the contribution of EMA Scheme in export of jute goods.

(c) The study recommended the continuation of the EMA Scheme